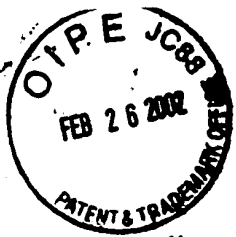


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Attorney Docket No. 18085.105093



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Raymond F. Schinazi et al.

Filed: June 12, 2001

Serial No.: 09/879,854

For: Nucleosides with Anti-Hepatitis B Virus Activity

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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February 12, 2002

THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 1, and add claims 2-20 as indicated in the attached "Replacement Claim Set" and "Marked Version of Claims Showing Changes Made."

Remarks

Based upon these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit a prompt Notice of Allowance from the Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark G. Sullivan
Reg. No. 36,942

03/04/2002 TBESHAH1 00000138 09879854

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84.00 OP

Date: February 12, 2002

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 12, 2002.

Clark G. Sullivan, Reg. No. 36,942